

Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote



Friday, 7th May 2021

Bible Readings: [Psalm 138; Deuteronomy 21:22-22:8; 1 Peter 3:1-12](#)
(Each reading may be viewed at www.biblegateway.com)

Reflection: ⑥

It is very easy to read the passages we like and skip over the ones that might challenge us - like the words at the beginning of 1 Peter chapter 3. I was talking to a young Christian woman about this passage and her take on it was enlightening. She felt that the command to obey one's husband in all things good and Godly, was far easier than the command given to husbands, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (*cf.* Ephesians 5:25) realising that Christ suffered and died for his church.

To avoid the misuse of Scripture, and some verses have been misused, it is always wise to ask questions about the passage being read, who was it written too, what problems were being addressed in the church. What was the setting, the culture and context? The old adage is a good one – the whole word of God for the whole people of God. By using the whole of Scripture, we will get a greater understanding of God's will and his working in the world.

The final verses of this morning's passage, again has echoes of the Sermon on the Mount and ends with words from Psalm 34:11-15, as Peter counsels his readers to be united, sympathetic toward each other, loving, tender and humble. Blessing each other.

Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

Prayers:

Most high and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us a true faith, a certain hope, and a perfect love. Give us a sense of the divine and knowledge of yourself, so that we may do everything in fulfilment of your holy will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Francis of Assisi

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to head the wounds. To toil and not to seek for rest. To labour and not to seek reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

Ignatius Loyola

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5.7